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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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1980 RAIL TRAFFIC SEEN AT RECORD LEVEL

WASHINGTON, January 5, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during 1980 totaled an estimated 915 billion ton-miles, 0.1 percent higher than the 1979 record of 914 billion, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

The slight increase over 1979 was attributable primarily to coal and grain traffic, both of which remained heavy throughout the year.

The only quarterly gain over 1979 was recorded in the first quarter when ton-miles were up 12.1 percent. The impact of the economic downturn produced declines of 4.7 percent and 3.1 percent in the second and third quarters respectively. Preliminary estimates for the fourth quarter of 1980 indicate moderate improvement, but ton-miles still trailed the previous year's output by 2.4 percent. It is obvious that declines in the last three quarters of 1980 would have been substantially greater were it not for the heavy coal and grain movements.

Ton-miles for the year increased 2.2 percent in the South and 1.6 percent in the West, but were down 5.3 percent in the East.

Carloadings for the year totaled 22,598,048, 5.4 percent below 1979. The slight increase in ton-miles versus the drop in carloadings stemmed from a continuation of the trend toward the retirement of smaller cars -- with the resultant increases in average load per car -- and longer average hauls (particularly in western coal movements). Eighteen of the 21 major commodity groups were down from 1979.

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Grain carloadings posted a 10.1 percent increase in 1980, the largest gain of any major commodity, and coal loadings increased 8.6 percent. Coal loadings were the highest since 1958, reflecting increased reliance on coal as an energy source. Grain loadings were the highest since 1973.

"Other farm products" was the only other commodity group to record an increase -- up 5.8 percent over 1979.

Motor vehicles and equipment was the biggest loser, down 24.0 percent. Nine other commodities declined by more than 10 percent.

Ton-miles for the noliday week ended December 27 totaled 12.1 billion, 0.4 percent below the corresponding week of 1979. Carloadings were 6.5 percent lower than the previous year, and 35.5 percent below the preceding non-holiday week of 1980.

PIGGYBACK

Piggyback revenue traffic for the week ended December 20 totaled 34,144 cars, down 5.8 percent from the corresponding week of 1979. Cumulative volume for the first 51 weeks of 1980 reacned 1,639,585 cars, 10.7 percent below 1979.

Trailers and/or containers loaded totaled 62,099 in the December 20 week, down 3.3 percent from 1979. The cumulative total was 2,976,858, an 8.1 percent decline from 1979.

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Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/27/80:

	Loadings in Week ended December 27, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	20,730	I 102	0.5	D 10,156	32.9
Other farm products	3,638	I 1,001	38.0	D 1,665	31.4
Metallic ores	22,561	D 3,221	12.5	D 7,476	24.9
Coal	72,906	D 883	1.2	D 48,827	40.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	5,377	D 2,501	31.7	D 4,744	46.9
Nonmetallic minerals	11,043	D 1,772	13.8	D 1,925	14.8
Grain mill products	11,689	D 1,743	13.0	D 4,897	29.5
Food and kindred products	10,944	D 2,142	16.4	D 5,175	32.1
Primary forest products	8,707	D 2,167	19.9	D 10,547	54.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,135	D 499	8.9	D 3,848	42.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,179	D 257	1.9	D 7,263	35.5
Chemicals and allied products	22,121	D 1,464	6.2	D 7,143	24.4
Petroleum products	4,272	D 597	12.3	D 1,229	22.3
Stone, clay and glass products	8,994	D 2,970	24.8	D 4,660	34.1
Coke	4,829	D 1,052	17.9	D 837	14.8
Metals and products	11,160	D 1,605	12.6	D 4,254	27.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	10,164	I 3,241	46.8	D 4,752	31.9
Waste and scrap materials	7,991	I 418	5.5	D 5,654	41.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,515	D 595	8.4	D 4,208	39.2
All other carloads	24,139	D 1,137	4.5	D 18,455	43.3
LCL traffic	142	- -	-	D 112	44.1
Total Cars Loaded	286,236	D 19,843	6.5	D 157,827	35.5
Corresponding week of 1979	306,079				

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (52 weeks)	22,598,048	23,891,735	D	5.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
51 weeks cumulative	902.5	901.5	I	0.1
Week ended December 27	12.1	12.2	D	0.4
52 weeks cumulative	914.6	913.7	I	0.1

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Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for 52 weeks of 1980 and 1979:

	1980	1979	Incr/Decr. 1980 vs. 1979		
Grain	1,573,313	1,429,244	I	144,069	10.1
Other farm products	235,845	222,821	I	13,024	5.8
Metallic ores	1,479,857	1,765,875	D	286,018	16.2
Coal	5,706,434	5,255,980	I	450,454	8.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	716,491	854,110	D	137,619	16.1
Nonmetallic minerals	770,243	783,685	D	13,442	1.7
Grain mill products	878,704	918,556	D	39,852	4.3
Food and kindred products	925,163	954,490	D	29,327	3.1
Primary forest products	1,002,033	1,055,665	D	53,632	5.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	469,447	596,817	D	127,370	21.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	1,060,487	1,097,932	D	37,445	3.4
Chemicals and allied products	1,411,160	1,488,616	D	77,456	5.2
Petroleum products	296,752	335,997	D	39,245	11.7
Stone, clay and glass products	792,402	944,328	D	151,926	16.1
Coke	276,329	359,824	D	83,495	23.2
Metals and products	820,263	984,022	D	163,759	16.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	853,850	1,123,104	D	269,254	24.0
Waste and scrap materials	632,733	713,749	D	81,016	11.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	555,041	642,508	D	87,467	13.6
All other carloads	2,129,816	2,343,575	D	213,759	9.1
LCL traffic	11,685	20,837	D	9,152	43.9
Total Cars Loaded	22,598,048	23,891,735	D	1,293,687	5.4

	1980	1979	% Change	
Revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
First quarter	233.1	207.9	I	12.1
Second quarter	227.7	239.0	D	4.7
Third quarter	222.4	229.6	D	3.1
Fourth quarter	231.5 e	237.2	D	2.4
Year	914.6	913.7	I	0.1

e Estimated

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